

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 MMO-01 SIG-01 L-03 PM-04 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1267

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 1758

SECDEF FOR DSAA/ISA(SA)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, UY

SUBJECT: MAAG REQUIREMENT STUDY

REF: STATE 119079

1. FOLLOWING EXAMINATION OF OUR OVERALL INTERESTS HERE COMBINED WITH ANTICIPATED FUTURE LEVELS OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE, I CANNOT ARGUE FOR RETENTION OF A MILGROUP IN URUGUAY AFTER FY 77 BASED ON A PRIORITY NEED, ESPECIALLY AS THIS IS PART OF A CONGRESSIONALLY-MANDATED WORLD-WIDE REDUCTION. HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO PERMIT AN ORDERLY REDUCTION AND TO OVERSEE THE INTEGRATION OF THE A-37S (URUGUAY'S ONLY MAJOR WEAPONS SYSTEM PURCHASE IN RECENT YEARS) INTO THE URUGUAYAN AIR FORCE, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD MAINTAIN THE MILGROUP STRUCTURE THROUGH FY 77. AFTER THAT TIME THE ENVISAGED THREE-OFFICER LIAISON ELEMENT ASSIGEND HERE SHOULD BE ADEQUATE TO CONDUCT ON-GOING MILITARY SECURITY ASSISTANCE MATTERS. I ASSUME THAT THE THREE WILL BE PROVIDED WITH ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.

2. A MORE ABRUPT PHSE-DOWN COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT OUR BROADER POLITICAL INTERESTS. THE INFLUENCE OF THE ARMED FORCES IS FELT IN BOTH POLICYMAKING AND PROGRAM INPLMENTATION THROUGHOUT THE GOVERNMENT AND NO SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION IN THIS INFLUENCE IS IN SIGHT. CONSEQUENTLY, OUR DAY-TO-DAY RELATIONS WITH ALL ELEMENTS OF GOVERNMENT DEPEND TO SOME DEGREE ON OUR RELATIONS WITH THE

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MILITARY. A SUDDEN AND DRASTIC CHANGE, SUCH AS A SUDDEN ELIMINA-

TION OF THE MILGROUP IN FY 77, COMING ON THE HEELS OF TERMINATION OF MAP/M AND OTHER MAP CHANGES, WOULD, IN MY VIEW, ADVERSELY EFFECT NOT ONLY OUR BROADER INTERESTS BUT ALSO OUR ABILITY TO RESPOND EFFECTIVELY TO ON-GOING MILITARY PROGRAMS IN THIS TIME FRAME.
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